

This is an official **CDC HEALTH UPDATE**

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Washington DC Area Post-Exposure Prophylaxis

In light of the recent recognition of a letter addressed to Senator Leahy that was similar to the letter (containing anthrax) addressed to Senator Daschle, concerns have emerged regarding the need for post-exposure prophylaxis for additional persons. CDC's recommendations for antimicrobial prophylaxis have not changed since the discovery of the additional letter. Based on epidemiologic investigation, no additional groups of persons are recommended to begin prophylaxis at this time.

The groups in Washington DC who were recommended to take antimicrobial prophylaxis and who should complete the full 60-day course are:

Persons who were on the fifth and sixth floors of the southeast wing of the Senate Hart Building on October 15, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Persons handling mail in the P street mail screening facility or the Dirksen Senate mail room on October 12, 2001.

All employees and business visitors to the nonpublic mail room of the U.S. Postal Service Processing and Distribution Center at 900 Brentwood Road during October 12--21.

All mail room employees and business visitors who were at the Department of State Annex 32 mail room facility during October 12--22.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protects people's health and safety by preventing and controlling diseases and injuries; enhances health decisions by providing credible information on critical health issues; and promotes healthy living through strong partnerships with local, national and international organizations.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES